



# GO... on a day out

# And a jolly good time was had by one and all

## The Markham family sees Aberdyfi Players' panto at Neuadd Dyfi

### What's the attraction?

The attraction is simply the annual local pantomime, this year Jack and the Beanstalk – a lot of singing, dancing and laughing. I only have to suggest it and the answer is always "Yes, Yes, Yes, we want to go AGAIN this year." Ken, however, was too busy on the mountain bringing the rams home, to come with us. He didn't seem to mind. For Catrin, not only does she love the story but she actually helped to 'build' the beanstalk with her babysitter Kaiie Morgan. "It was brilliant especially the giant and the cow scenes," said Colin but Catrin and Tom could not quite understand why 'Jack' was a girl. It must take hours of work by Aberdyfi Players to pull it all together so well. The least we can do is support and show our appreciating but turning up to see it.

### What's on offer?

Jack and the Beanstalk is about the good and the bad in the shape of the wicked giant. This was the first pantomime the Aberdyfi Players performed back in 1993. The children were full of enthusiasm as they ran with their tickets into the foyer, welcomed by lively panto music and the colourful front of house host, Gareth Pugh. We made ourselves comfortable armed with popcorn on the house' ready for the show. Programme and raffles in hand, we entered the world of this 18th century folk tale – Jack and Catrin's Beanstalk.

### How did you get there?

Aberdyfi takes about 20 minutes by car down from the hills of Llanfihangel y Penant along the beautiful coast.

### How long did you stay?

From past experience, I knew the children would be spellbound for the afternoon. All I had to do was make sure we had plenty of refreshments to keep us going for the next three hours. Therefore, a pit stop at the local garage



was a priority.

### Did you take a broil?

Definitely not. A relaxing afternoon undercover in the Neuadd Dyfi – a really attractive venue used for all kinds of different activities which benefits the Aberdyfi community.

### What did you do there?

The only thing you can do at a pantomime is enjoy. Colin and Tom sat at the edge of their seats taking in the everything – the amazing scenery, the

Beth Edwards as Dame Trot and Arwel Jones as Private Access in the Aberdyfi Players' version of Jack And The Beanstalk; left: the Markham family

music, the story and of course, the fantastic, memorable characters. Colin, Tom and Catrin plus their cousins Ifan, James, Jessica and Eleanor just loved the giant and the magic hen. Catrin did keep asking "where is the beanstalk?" and "when are the beans going to grow?" and "when is the cow going to be sold?" Yes, the challenge was to get them to sit. They preferred joining in with the singing and dancing up and down the aisle. It was a joy to watch

them (a bit stressful as well). But in the true nature of the pantomime, the children are encouraged to join in and have fun.

### How much did it cost you?

Adults £6 each under 11s £3. So the total for a fantastic afternoon of great entertainment cost me £15

### How about food and drink?

The show started at 2pm and by 3.15pm we were ready for a break – by then

## WHERE TO GO ...

- **Snowdrop Open Days.** Plas yn Rhiv, near Aberdaron. Until Monday, noon-4pm. £1.50
- Details 01758 780219
- **Bellowhead. Theatr Hafren, Newtown.** Tonight, 8pm. Amazing 11-piece musical collective. £12 & £14
- Details 01686 625007
- **Blodwen. Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl.** Tomorrow, 7.30pm. Welsh language opera. £12
- Details 01745 330000
- **Lord Crawshaw Memorial Walk. The Square, Llanwrtyd Wells.** Tomorrow, 9am. £8
- Details 01591 610332

- **World Wetlands Day. Lake Yrmywy, Llanwddyn.** Tomorrow, 1pm. Free event
- Details 01691 870278

- **Snowdrop Open Days. Penrhyn Castle, Bangor.** Tomorrow and Sunday, and February 9&10. £1
- Details 01248 353084

- **Tower Tours. St Giles' Church, Wrexham.** Every Saturday and Thursday, 12.30pm. £2.50
- Details [www.openchurchnetwork.co.uk](http://www.openchurchnetwork.co.uk)

- **Snowdrop Stroll. Chirk Castle.** Tomorrow and Sunday, February 9&10 and 13-17, noon-4pm
- Details 01691 777701

- **House Tour. Plas Teg, Pontybyddyn, near Mold.** Every Sunday, 2pm-5pm

- Details 01352 773335 or [www.plasteg.co.uk](http://www.plasteg.co.uk)

- **Art North Wales. Tudno Lodge Art Gallery, Llandudno.** Tuesday until March 1, 10.30am-5pm
- Details [www.thegallery.tudnolodge.co.uk](http://www.thegallery.tudnolodge.co.uk)

- **History of Woodland in Wales.** Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth. Wednesday 5.45pm. £2
- Details 01654 705952.

- **Wrexham Fencing Club. Clywedog Leisure and Activity Centre.** Thursday, Juniors 6.15pm, adults 8pm
- Details 01978 262787

● Visit [dailypost.co.uk](http://dailypost.co.uk) for your full listings guide of what's on in North Wales and beyond

- Details 01970 633088 or [www.museum.ceredigion.gov.uk](http://www.museum.ceredigion.gov.uk)
- **Everywhere in Chains. Wales & Slavery. Wrexham County Borough Museum**
- Details 01978 317970
- **Sharp as Steel. Tough as Iron. Bersham Heritage Centre.** Until April 27, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Admission free
- Details 01978 261529

- **Old Time Dancing. Coedpoeth Parish Hall.** Thursday, 7pm. £1.50
- Details Iris and Barry Rogers on 01978 757338

- **Not Just for Christmas. Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth.** Until February 29

- **Lisa Markham, who helps run the family farm at Llanfihangel y Penant, took Colin, 11, Tom, six, Ifan, James, Jessica, Eleanor, and Catrin, three,**

### Opening times?

The show is on tonight at 7.30pm and ends tomorrow, February 2, with shows at 2pm and 7.30pm. Tickets from Dyfi Marine, Aberdyfi and Wardrobe, Tywyn. More details at [www.aberdyfiplayers.co.uk](http://www.aberdyfiplayers.co.uk)

**Rating \*\*\*\*\***  
 \* don't bother  
 \*\* poor value for money  
 \*\*\* okay, worth the trip  
 \*\*\*\* good, will go again  
 \*\*\*\*\* great, lets go now

### What was the best bit?

Seeing the children enjoying such an amazing, professional show is wonderful. Also, being lucky enough of having a real pantomime on our doorstep in one of our local villages. Seeing Catrin's face as Jack climbed up the beanstalk was brilliant. Also, Tom's face was a picture as the giant was killed, falling in a heap to the ground.

"He's not really dead Mam because the sword went through his arm," Tom consoled me. The story really becomes true to life and is the topic of conversation for days. Even Colin, now 11, thoroughly enjoys the show every year. The pantomime season in Aberdyfi is not to be missed. Seeing all the children as the little 'mices' was a real pleasure and their enjoyment of being part of such a wonderful performance was clear. Indeed, the objective is to help the drama provision for the local school and keep the children out of mischief during the long winter months. Congratulations to all the Aberdyfi Players for presenting a fantastic version of Jack and the Beanstalk.